



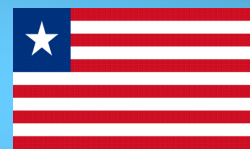
Vol. 1 No. 1  
January 2012

Information Resource Center - Monrovia

# NEWS & ARTICLES ALERT



Public Diplomacy Section  
Embassy of the United States of America  
Monrovia, Liberia



## IRC-MONROVIA

*The Information Resource Center (IRC) offers information resources, organizes regular weekly events, and is the hub for coordinating outreach programs, especially the American Corner program. The IRC is open to the public Monday to Thursday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm; photo ID is required for entry.*

### RESOURCES AVAILABLE

**Computer Lab** with 10 computers for internet and word processing use strictly for research.

**Reading Room** with more than 1,000 books and 50 magazine titles for readers of all ages.

**Research Assistance** with access to online journals, eLibrary, LibraryThing...

**Audiovisual Room** with 42" TV with 70 DSTV channels, movies and documentaries.

**Education Advising** sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

### REGULAR EVENTS

- **Movie Series**

A documentary or movie relevant to monthly themes are screened

1st Thursday of each month, 5:00 — 7:00 pm

Open to public, no invitation required.

- **State Exchange Alumni Association of Liberia (SEAL) Meeting**

State exchange program alumni meet to discuss issues of interest

2nd Thursday of each month, 6:00 — 8:00 pm

Open to USG exchange program alumni only.

- **Children's Hour**

American presenters moderate sessions on topical issues

3rd Thursday of each month, 5:30 — 7:00 pm

Open to children only.

- **Speaker Series**

Guest Americans or non-Americans speak on selected topics

Last Thursday of each month, 6:00 — 8:00 pm

Open to public, no invitation required.

### STAY CONNECTED

[www.monrovia.usembassy.gov](http://www.monrovia.usembassy.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/monrovia.usembassy](https://www.facebook.com/monrovia.usembassy)  
[www.twitter.com/embassymonrovia](https://www.twitter.com/embassymonrovia)  
[www.flickr.com/usembassymonrovia](https://www.flickr.com/usembassymonrovia)

### COMING UP IN JANUARY 2012

#### Moving to New Embassy Compound

IRC –Monrovia will move to the New Embassy Compound (NEC) located at 502 Benson Street in January 2012. The Library will be closed from January 9 to 27, and the Computer Lab will be closed from January 20 to 27. The IRC will reopen at the NEC on Monday, January 30.



Computer stations in the current IRC. (Photo by IRO Steve Perry 2011).

#### RSO to Host Town Hall Meeting for IRC Users

The Regional Security Office will host a town hall meeting at 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the IRC on Thursday, January 12 for IRC users on security procedures at the New Embassy Compound. IRC users are encouraged to attend.

### AMERICAN CORNER PROGRAM

#### Booker T. Washington Institute

Kakata, Margibi County

AC Coordinator: Ms. Daisy Fahnbulleh 0886-644-600

[fahnbullehdaisy@yahoo.com](mailto:fahnbullehdaisy@yahoo.com)

#### Grand Bassa Materials & Curriculum Center

Buchanan, Grand Bassa County

AC Director: Dr. Levi Zangai 0886-722-389

[l\\_zangai@hotmail.com](mailto:l_zangai@hotmail.com)

#### Ricks Institute

Virginia, Montserrado County

AC Coordinator: Mr. Shammah Varney 0886-717-729

[smvarney@library.org](mailto:smvarney@library.org)

#### Zwedru Community Center

Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County

AC Coordinator: Ms. Sam N. Nuah 0886-553-535

[samnn2@yahoo.com](mailto:samnn2@yahoo.com)

# Information Resource Center - Monrovia

## NEWS & ARTICLES ALERT

Vol. 1 No. 1

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### ARTICLES ALERT

**Articles Alert** is produced monthly by the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Monrovia. It offers abstracts of current articles, mostly from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in major areas of international or U.S. domestic affairs. Views expressed in the articles are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.

#### INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Western, Jon; Goldstein, Joshua S. **HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION COMES OF AGE: LESSONS FROM SOMALIA TO LIBYA** (*Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2011, pp. 48-59) - An essay is presented on global humanitarian intervention since the 1990s. The authors examine multilateral intervention by organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in places such as Libya, Bosnia, and Rwanda. The authors argue that since the 1990s, humanitarian intervention by international organizations has effectively deployed military force to prevent or cease atrocities. The essay examines the role international criminal justice in peacekeeping operations.

#### ECONOMY

Trostle, Ronald. **WHY ANOTHER FOOD COMMODITY PRICE SPIKE?** (*Amber Waves*, September 2011, various pages) Food prices jumped in 2010-11, the second price spike within three years. Longer term financial, agricultural, and demographic trends, exacerbated by short-term production shortfalls, set up conditions for the increases.

#### U.S. POLITICS

Galston, William A. **ONE YEAR TO GO: PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S UPHILL BATTLE FOR REELECTION IN 2012** (*Brookings Institution*, November 7, 2011. 23 pgs) 2012 Despite recent signs of a modest upturn in President Barack Obama's political fortunes, the 2012 election is likely to be close and hard-fought. More than in any contest since 1992, the economy will be the overwhelming focus. But fundamental clashes about the role of government will also be in play against a backdrop of record low public confidence in our governing institutions. And contests involving incumbents tend to be referenda on their records more than choices between candidates. If the election pitting Obama against the strongest potential Republican nominee, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, were held tomorrow, the president would probably lose. But a year is a very long time in American politics, and three factors could change the odds in Obama's favor. Economic growth could exceed expectations, and the unemployment rate—long stuck at 9 percent—could come down fast enough to restore a modicum of Americans' shattered hopes for the future. If the president tries to rerun his 2008 campaign under very different circumstances, he could end up turning potential victory into defeat.

#### LITERATURE

Berman, Russell A. **THE REAL LANGUAGE CRISIS** (*Academe*, Sep/Oct 2011, Vol. 97, Iss. 5; pg. 30) -

[Contact the IRC for print copy](#)

According to the National Foreign Language Center, "Eighty-two percent of US residents are monolingual, and the United States is the only industrialized country where language study is, for the most part, optional rather than mandatory and where second-language study begins, in most cases, at age fourteen." Even though the United States needs more second language acquisition opportunities, powerful forces in politics and higher education seem dead set on denying students the chance to learn. Since we know that enrollments are generally growing, the attack on language cannot be explained simply as a matter of declining demand (which is not to say that particular programs may not be performing as well as they could).

Campo-Flores, Arian. **HIDING BEHIND THE WEB** (*Newsweek*, posted online October 1, 2010)

The bloody drug wars in Mexico are getting little coverage in mainstream media there, largely because the press doesn't report what the drug cartels don't want people to know. In many parts of Mexico, especially the north, the media effectively have ceased to function; more than 30 journalists have been murdered or have gone missing since 2006, according to a report released last month by the Committee to Protect Justice.

#### U.S. SOCIETY

[Michael Idov](#). **FOREIGN POLICY**, September/October 2011, 3 pages.

The author, a contributing editor at the *New York* magazine, discusses the portrayal of Americans in foreign films from the beginning of the war on terror in 2001, focusing on the depictions of the characters, such as soldiers and military doctors, in the films.



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